



State of Vermont

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MEMORANDUM

To: Special Education Directors, Part C Host Agency Directors
From: Steve Dale, Department for Children & Families Commissioner
Armando Vilaseca, Department of Education Commissioner
Re: Part C Child Find Coordination and Implementation
Date: June 23, 2010

We value the identification of and delivery of quality early intervention services for young children experiencing developmental delays. Since 1991, the Vermont Department of Education (DOE) and the Child Development Division (CDD) of the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF) of the Agency of Human Services have been co-lead agencies for the IDEA, Part C early intervention program (formally known as the Family, Infant, and Toddler Program or FITP) serving children birth to three years of age and their families. The 2007 Interagency Agreement (IAA) between our two state agencies defines the way we currently share responsibilities for the coordination and provision of statewide early intervention services. The IAA states that, "School districts have responsibility for child find activities while regional host agencies have responsibility for the coordination and provision of direct services to infants, toddlers and families determined eligible for Part C services."

Given that concerns have been raised about the coordination and interpretation of Part C child find responsibilities and understanding that collaborative efforts between local school districts and CIS/EI programs vary greatly across the state, the DOE and DCF/CDD have agreed that it is time to re-examine how the current system works. The goal of this is to determine how to improve the system in order to best serve young children and families in our state.

Between now and December 1, Terri Edgerton from DCF/CDD and Kate Rogers from DOE will gather information about current practices in child find coordination and implementation, and how effective these are in each region of the state in order to formulate the necessary recommendations to improve child find activities. Given the broad system implications of this review, the DOE and DCF/CDD will also work with the Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council, Interagency Coordinating Council, Essential Early Education Advisory Group as well as seek input from local CIS teams and school district special education administrators.

We appreciate your dedication to the most important work of supporting young children and their families over the years. As we move forward, we thank you for your help in determining the most effective identification and early intervention system possible for our young children with disabilities and their families.